GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:212
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2007
BORDER TRADE
Hussain Shri Anwar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to start border trades with China, Bhutan, Myanmar through North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal for training of entrepreneurs for such border trades in the North-Eastern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the NE region will get benefited from such border trades?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a) & b) Border Trade with China and Myanmar is already in existence through Nathula in Sikkim (with China) and Moreh in Manipur (with Myanmar). There are 16 points (as per India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit) on the border of India and Bhutan through which trade takes place between the two countries.

c) to e) Department of Commerce operates Export Development Fund (EDF) with objective to assist specific activities for promotion of exports from North Eastern Region of the country. All activities, which have a linkage with the exports from the region and are designed to help export, are eligible for assistance from the fund. During Dec. 2006 - Jan.2007 financial assistance under the Export Development Fund has been provided for organizing a 15 days training programme in Indian Institute of Foreign Trade for the traders of Manipur. Border trade is meant for the benefit of people residing along the border. The extent of this benefit to the NE Region has not been determined.